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FEATURE GAMES

54
 Codemasters and CDs

56
 To the Moon Born

62
 Sex and Software

65
 Eugene goes to
 Comberly

COMPOS

8
 Zeon Compo

16
 Revell Comp

WIN
 'Watchers and Model Kits

GAME REVIEWS

RUN ONES

28
 Retrograde

32
 F-16 combor pilot

42
 John Madden
 Football

ALSO

20
 Thrill Time (Gold 2)

22
 Ghostbusters II

24
 Chase HQ

25
 Maze Mania

26
 Space Rogue

30
 Taobin

31
 Don Dare II

34
 Leisure Genius
 'Classics'

36
 Test Drive II

40
 Ghouls and Ghosts

41
 The Champ

46
 Snore

50
 Sentinel Worlds

BARGAIN BUCKET

44
 Street Haste
 Shark
 Neutralizer
 Sailing
 Moving Target

REGULARS

7
 But First This...

10
 Data

15
 Are you Missing Out
 on the Action?

18
 The Dream Team

38
 Poster

52
 Post Apocalypse

58
 Mean Zone

61
 Tech Tips

66
 Stick Up!

74
 Fishy Tales



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11. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 273:1225-1226, 1995

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Journal of Management Inquiry 20(1) 3-14

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Figure 6

10. A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE FUTURE

Abstract The purpose of this study was to determine whether there were differences in the prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease between two groups of men who had been exposed to asbestos during their military service. One group consisted of 600 men who had worked in the shipyard at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California, from 1947 to 1968. The other group consisted of 600 men who had worked in the shipyard at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, California, from 1947 to 1968. The results showed that the prevalence of risk factors for coronary artery disease was significantly higher in the group exposed to asbestos than in the control group.

[illegible][illegible]

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 Ray Day

Technical Assistant
 Phil Day

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BUT FIRST THIS...

We've just been flicking through a copy of January's C&A and one does occasionally find a low and behold there is not one single C&A game review. Therefore I would like to take this opportunity to wish the C&A team great fortune in their new market and I would also like to welcome all the C&A readers that they have abandoned. We are the only C&A/C128 dedicated magazine (around) and we're proud of it too.

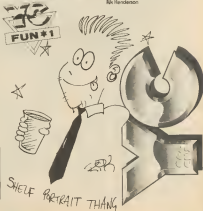
One thing though. Ever since the new PC appeared it has been made clear to us that we have made a decision that not everybody is happy with. The readers that related the things and serious articles seem to have been attracted by our change towards a game based magazine. Again I must stress that today's C&A market is in a very marginal games-based and I'm sorry if anybody doesn't

realise that I don't wish you all to go away but if you do wish to sample another magazine that caters for your tastes I'd recommend Commodore Disk User. Our star this you won't be disappointed.

Now onto the cassette. Over the three issues of PC, so far you've had twelve games (twelve games for £5.85 plus three wonderful mags of course) but in the future things are likely to change.

No doubt you've seen a gallery or demo column in many other mags. We intend to go one step further as we'd like to put your graphical/musical skills/demos on the tape so that everyone can hear and see them for themselves. As an incentive yours (if used) will win a wonderful mystery prize. Ever we yet to decide what it is! (that's worth mega-bucks so send them in now).

Yours until Post Apocalyptic
 Bob Henderson



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DATA

Damons Tengen cartoonist has the brilliantly raff role of Floop from the Planet of the Apes. Although the style is developed in being comic book, there is a dash of 8 movie Hercules. I don't know if you can find it on Amazon. You could Professor Sarah Belong to the of a brain Damons Tengen.

On the way the two bloody fellow have to be able to even. I don't know if you can find it on Amazon. You could Professor Sarah Belong to the of a brain Damons Tengen.

Wings of Fury is the Damons Tengen cartoonist has the brilliantly raff role of Floop from the Planet of the Apes. Although the style is developed in being comic book, there is a dash of 8 movie Hercules. I don't know if you can find it on Amazon. You could Professor Sarah Belong to the of a brain Damons Tengen.

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As pilot of a Helicot the player has to provide or support for US Wars. a badly damaged aircraft carrier. In glorious 3D you can shoot, dive, bomb and daylight nappy enemy planes, ships and soldiers. The aim being to protect the ship while turning the Japanese Empire into the land of the shirking sons.

Wings of Fury has landed its way into the shops and will take a £14.99 sized hole in your savings.



The European Group has turned in Database software divisions and Mandant Software into a separate company, which means that sales must make their own little self supporting proposition.

Database Software will now be the umbrella name covering the old Database software divisions. Education Software and Mandant Software each will maintain its own label and identity.

The Win-Office business program suite is definitely the biggest selling product which the new company inherits but Fun School 2 has built up an unprecedented sales record for an educational product while Mandant has not been without success in the games and game-construction program area. During the year the company will be introducing over 30 titles so we should be hearing more soon.

Commodore distributor Parkfield Communications is claiming that Santa was overloaded with computers this year in the biggest hardware boom since 1984.

With the C64 Light Force and Amiga 500 Batman packs selling well, Lorenzo Cohen, Parkfield's managing director, sees this as an especially surprising occurrence "showing that the Batman craze can overcome even the Chancellor's tight money policy".

During the run up to Christmas, Commodore and Parkfield hit a landmark with the sale of the 200,000th Amiga 500. This makes the machine the most successful 16-bit games computer in the UK (in other words, bigger than the ST but less than the PC). Maybe one day the Amiga may equal the number of sales that the C64 has achieved - one day in the far future though.

British Telecom has scored a success in the area of data compression. The home grown compression system has been adopted as the heart of the proposed V32bis standard which is expected to have gained final approval by the CCITT during February.

The approval will mean that V32bis will be incorporated in modems and various proprietary networking systems. It is good to see that a British company can have an international impact in the computer market.

When the going gets tough, the rough restructure. After disappointing American sales figures, Commodore has boosted up its European sales arm up.

In general, computer sales in the States are taking a nose dive both in the home computer market and the business sector. In Europe the situation is a lot better and the formation of Commodore Marketing International is the company's way of trying to grab as much of this market as possible.

CMI is headed by Peter Joyce, who joined Commodore from Spangol, but it is doubtful how long he has been working on Commodore's support staff in Commodore's offices in the United Kingdom.



One day it may be possible for a pilot to clock up flying hours without leaving the ground. Sublogic is not only producing the game, also making money towards making it a reality through its latest product, Flight Controls.

Flight Controls is a console which incorporates all the necessary controls and all of the principal controls found in a modern light aircraft. It has US licensing authority, FAA approves, the combination of Flight Controls and Sublogic's Flight Simulator (written by Sublogic) could constitute a viable "school" for logging the necessary flying hours which a private pilot needs to maintain a valid licence.

The fact that Sublogic is even approaching the FAA is a sign, however Flight Simulators have come far beyond your mum's and dad's model of the flying in their living room!

Although there are no plans to produce the Flight Controls unit for the Commodore, Sublogic does have a new scenario disk for its own Flight Simulator, the Stealth and Mission packages. Hawaiian Odyssey reproduces the Pacific Hawaiian geographical and includes a mysterious gateway to a fantasy world.

Everything from downtown Honolulu to Pearl Harbour is reproduced and you can even fly into the crater of Mauna Loa, one of Hawaii's most volatile volcanoes. Could this be the gateway to the fantasy world?

Damark has agreed to lend its expertise to produce and market Incentive's Castle Master. The deal means that Incentive can concentrate on the programming while Damark do all the worrying.

The basic game exercise involves an intricate technique of using 2D polygons to create a realistic representation of 19th century England. This is the strength when Pennington and Garhaus were at each other's throats and Incentive Theatre prototype Good Queen was under threat. None of this is relevant to the game, however, which involves finding an imprisoned Prince (yes, yes another one!) from one of your castles, via the way you will have to both out-pace and out-guess, and solve a bundle of puzzles.

Millions of his game have sold me also. I'm a new star party. The best was okay but the spits were too hot quite it.



**HAWAIIAN
ODYSSEY**
SCENERY ADVENTURE

On The Tape



It's a dark still night the
full moon is shining eerily
and the gramophone is electric
Your heart beats quickly

You are the JACKAL and you are
metamorphosing into a werewolf
You feed on the moon and die fit
you with immortal power You know
your task and you will be loyal to
the ghosts of DEATH VALLEY

Your aim is to rescue your
girlfriend who fed in terror into a
HOUSE OF THE UNDEAD! Can you
save her before the demons of HELL
get to her?

Joystick Or Keyboard

Keys: Z-Left C-Right

Shift-Jump





Steer Cumber Colin through the streets of the 4-way 3D-scrolling city using items scattered around to help you overcome obstacles such as the lake, playground and building site.

The faster you go the higher your score...so look out for items that will speed up your bike...like the turbo-charger...and keep an eye on the clock.

You will need skill in controlling the acceleration and gear changes to achieve a good score...especially in the drag race at the end of the game.



BIKE CONTROLS



Keyboard:

- ← Left
- Right
- ↑ Accelerate
- ↓ Decelerate
- SPACE Change



ACTION

3-D BREAKOUT

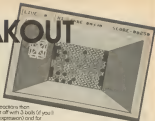
This is a 3-Dimensional version of the old game of Breakout with the wall being in the distance and the ball apparently moving in and out of the screen. You simply have to hit the ball back towards the wall with a joystick-controlled bat (in port 2) to knock the wall down and score points.

The game play differs from the original in two ways. Firstly at higher scores the bat does not reduce in size as this made the game practically unplayable, and secondly when the ball is hit through a gap in the wall it does not bounce back and forth behind the wall, as this made it far too easy to play, but breaks back through the wall or random.

The game gradually speeds up as you score more points until it is played at twice the starting speed. The speed increases occur at 400, 800, 1200, 2000, 4000 and 10000

points, and if you get to that stage you must have faster reactions than me. You start off with 3 balls (if you'll pardon the expression) and for every 1000 points scored you get another life. Also when you have completely cleared the screen you will get a bonus of another 3 lives up to a maximum of 9 lives.

If you fancy a break from Breakout then the game can be paused by pressing any key, and restored by pressing the space bar. To start a game or to restart a game if you should happen to miss a ball then simply press the fire button on the joystick.



Santolus space station is known halfway of Subnautica and alien activity. Small wonder then that you Earth's most special space policy have been selected to go in and clean out the nest of alien war machinery. The problem is that Santolus station is a maze filled with hostile devices. Firstly you haven't got a snowflake's chance of getting in and out alive. But then up shields, both you might as well try

SANTOLUS

a joystick in Port 2 you have to shoot your way through a number of obstacles in order to reach the alien mothership at the end of the maze. All this by shooting into a power ball. If you get that far, the problem is that alien defenders will be trying to stop you. Your ship can absorb a certain amount of punishment, as it is composed of three modules, but as more and more of your ship modules are destroyed your laser's range and rate of fire will diminish. You have

three lives altogether, giving you the chance to absorb nine hits.

The bar below your present score shows your current laser power. This can be replenished by shooting up a bar with 50 or 1.

A number of objects can be collected for extra points and to replenish your strength. To pick these up just go over them. They are:

- C** Colour bomb: Collect this for extra points.
- K** Key: You may need this to open doors.
- S** Shielding: this will replenish your laser shield.
- M** Module: Collecting this gives you back one ship module.
- V** Vulnerable: Collecting with this will show your ship up, making you more vulnerable.

Lots of objects will simply destroy your ship on contact. Some of these can be dispatched using your laser.

To pause the game press (PST) DEL, and to restart use the left (arrow) key or the top left of the keyboard.

A maze of death

The game presents you with a view of the maze seen from above. Using



Commodore Disk User is a monthly magazine tailored specifically for C64 and C128 Disk Users. At £2.15 per month it offers the best in all round value for money. Not only do you get an informative and lively magazine, you also get a free disk with each issue. You can purchase your copy on the third Friday of each month.

To whet your appetite, the March issue has the following programs on the disk:

Rogue - Be the Guardian and Defender of your people

Survival - Reverse your opponent's pieces and win the game

Geos Fonts - GECOS users take heed: some extra fonts for you

Screen Slide - Create your own impressive vertical slides

Trivia Challenge - C64's version of a popular questions and answers game

Joystick Tester - Check out your stick's for correct operation

Screen Manipulator - Make full use of ALL the screen (excluding borders)

Colours Matcher - A younger version of match the coloured pegs

Video Recorder Planner - Keep your own hardcopy of planned recording sessions

March's issue of Commodore Disk User will be on sale from Friday 23rd February 1990



ARE YOU MISSING OUT ON THE ACTION?

PLANE AND SIMPLE

"When large, plastic, and brightly coloured?"

Before you rummage through your sister's chest of drawers, I'll tell you. A Revell F-16A model kit (what else?)

Thanks to our sister magazine *Aeromodelleur*, Revell has given us 5 F-16A kits to give away in our EXCLUSIVE compo to celebrate our EXCLUSIVE review of F-16 Combat Pilot.

The kit is brand spanking new as the item my cousin bought me for Christmas, and they have only just hit the shops. Unfortunately, due to solvent misuse, we have to demand that you buy your own glue, and only if you're going to be sensible with it (ideally Coca-Cola).

All you have to do is supply the common nicknames for the following three aircraft:

- 1 F-16
- 2 F-39
- 3 F-14

Write your answers on the back of a postcard (or sealed envelope) and send them by March 31st to:

Build It Yourself Compo
YC
Argus House
Boundary Way
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7JL

Normal Compo rules apply



THE DREAM TEAM

Meet the lads who supplied the info this month!



Rik Henderson – Deputy Editor & Freelance Cosmonaut

Rik's hobbies include opening beer caps with his head, screaming in the bath, and annoying PR girls with his practical jokes. He has gone down in the annals of time for his stunning portrayal of a pair of windscreen wipers in a school production of 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

Adrian Pumphrey – Games Editor & Part-time Zoo Attraction

Adrian is a hulking figure of a man best known for his dairy mouth and quiet mumble. His worst experiences in life involve a sheep, the Editor of a well-known, quarterly magazine and the froud squeal. But it's probably best not to repeat the gory details. He has a wonderful personality and the names that System 2 have called him are completely unbounded.



Adrian Pumphrey's Top Sheep Name

Emmagrude

Ashley Catter-Cox – Games Assistant & Fish Oscillator

Alex Eugene, Common? Pranks, Ashley is a recent addition to the YC Memorial Medical Hospital. He lives



for a joyride, but unfortunately his marriage proposal was turned down by the competition. Pro Games are his hobby, and coffee is his work. Nobody has a better relationship with the coffee machine.

Gordon Hamlett – Contributor & One Man Barber Shop Quarter



Gordon is a long serving member of the Duck-Billed Platypus Lodge. In his lifetime he has soaked many men in Peterborough, climbed enormous amounts of steps (20-400) and laughed in the face of the barman when told to drink up (all enlightening experiences).

The Team's top ten PR Grlies

Lesley Harland – Electronic Arts
Danielle Woodhead – US Gold
Beverly Gardiner – Audioactive
Amanda Barry – Lynne Winks (PR for activation, etc.)
Madda Singh – Accolade
Lesley Walker – Virgin Megastore
Pam Griffin – Clowin
Glenn Edgley – Darnok
Monica Russell – Entertainment International
Simon Harvey – Barrington Harvey (PR for Rainbow Arts, etc.)

The Team's top five games of the month

Revenge
F1 (6 Corns)
John Madden Football
Snoc
Doni Bone III



The Toys for the Boys (the top bribes of the month)

The Toolkit – suborning – Darnok
The Electronic Arts Sweatshirt & Paper Robots – Electronic Arts

Rik Henderson's Top Ten Comics

Arkham Asylum – DC
Deadline
Via (what a surprise!)
Justice League America – DC
Justice League Europe – DC
The Bigger Man – Top Man Press
Love, Tell Roberts – Photographic
Boy of the Braves – (this is not a joke)
The Dark Knight Returns – DC
Tobacco – Spideographics

DEADLINE

This is Elite's offering to the Christmas compilation market: Thrill Time, a crash of terror! (Elite, \$29.95)

Supplier: ELITE

Price: \$9.99 (Cass) \$14.99 (Disk)

Don't forget Saboteur and Frank Bruner's World Championship Boxing. Obviously, the emphasis on this package is value for money, but will it be Thrill Time on Christmas morning, or will The Sound Of Music be an enjoyable alternative?

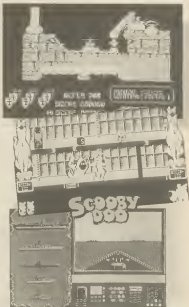
For those of you who can't remember it, *Airwolf* was an American TV series. In it a billion-dollar helicopter was stolen from the US Government. Much to their embarrassment, it would show up and solve Top Secret missions. Then it would fly off into the sunset. It had all the features that you'd spend a billion dollars on if you were building the ultimate chopper.

Anyway, this time several scientists have been kidnapped. They are held in an underground base and as the top pilot available, you've got the job. Piloting *Airwolf* is hard enough without lasers, security systems and machine guns everywhere. This is, of course, exactly what you're up against. You can fly *Airwolf* around and blast at various hazards with your guns. There are five scenarios in all, and each is more difficult to find than the last.

This game is simply too hard! The helicopter is very difficult to control with any degree of accuracy. As you're only got one life, the game rewards for too often. Dated.

Scooby Doo finds our food-loving dachshund in a bit of a fix. The rest of the gang have been kidnapped and are being

THRILL TIME (GOLD 2)



field in a creepy old castle. Despite being a coward at heart, Scooby decides to go in and rescue them. Our hero has to jump over the hoppers in the castle while avoiding the inhabitants.

These take the form of Scooby Ghos, Ghasty Ghouls, and Devious Devils. Scooby can punch the baddies on the spot. Even so, Scooby might find it a bit too much were it not for the Scooby snacks. These are scattered around the castle at random and give Scooby an extra life.

Scooby-Doo is dated and it shows. The graphics, while okay, are clumsy and look alike. Punching ghosts on the nose is okay for a few minutes but it soon gets tedious. Scooby can quickly lose lives because the ghost is indestructible very suddenly.

Boatships is the classic game of seek and destroy. It is usually played by two players. However, there is a one player versus the computer and a league option. Each player has his own water space. He places his ships secretly and then the players take it in turns to shoot randomly. The winner is the person who sinks their opponent's ships.

This game appears more polished than the others on the compilation. The graphics are interesting as well as functional and the shooting phase is a nice addition. The game is one that you'll either love or hate. This is a game that the whole family can enjoy and I recommend it in 'Saboteur' you are a man with a mission. Highly trained in both armed and unarmed combat you have to retrieve a disk. This contains the names of Rebel leaders and is, of course, Top Secret. Well, surprisingly it is well-defended. It is in a top security establishment and protected by guards, dogs

and security devices.

You start by landing at the jetty in an inflatable dinghy. Throughout the complex, there are various weapons to help your task. These include shuriken, grenades, knives and bombs. You have to find the disk and meet the helicopter on the roof so there's no time to spare.

This is another game that shows its age. The graphics are indistinct and the controls are fiddly. It's hard to pick up items and climb ladders. Although the game is hard to finish it's really not worth trying.

Finally, Frank Bruno lets you play the part of your favourite heavyweight hero. You must guide him through his last fight for the world title. He must fight eight opponents from all around the world. Each one has a different graphic and fighting style. And they have a dirty trick up their sleeves. Ring Long Chop does a flying kick and Andre Puncherodov does a head butt.

But our Frank is not going to stand for any of that. Harry. As he punches his opponents his punchometer increases when it becomes maximum he can unleash a dynamite punch. Unfortunately if Frank gets hit then the punchometer decreases. Once Frank defeats an opponent then he gets a code and you have to load in the next boxer.

Frank Bruno, the game, is about as current as he got for the World Championship today. The graphics are extremely blocky and the game itself is frustrating. Control is achieved using both keys and joystick. There's still a lot of game here for those who like a challenge. I was put off though.

Overall the package is far too dated. There are many better compilations available on the market. ACC.



50%



Supplier: Activision
Price: £9.99 (Cass)
£14.99 (Disk)

They're back! The original ghostbusting team return to save New York again. After being sued following the destruction of the Stay Put Apartments last time, the team disbanded. The media blew up the offer as a hoax. Sadly, our heroes have had to make ends meet by becoming performers.

Dana (Barret Salas [Johnny Weir]) returns to New York. She now has a job. Once, but the powers of the supernatural sidetrack him. Dana knows that the forces of evil are

GHOST

back. She also knows what it's do about it. What you gonna say?

Ghostbusters of course!
The real gang of four are back and fighting in New York in a past from the evil spirit. Really phenomena of all shapes and forms! The game itself is in three parts, and the first sub-game sets you the task of collecting a sample of slime. To do this a team member needs to be lowered down a shaft by winch, on the way he encounters slimers, ghost wind-hearing blots and huge hands.

Luckily like every good boy scout the ghostbuster is well prepared, as he has a choice of three weapons at his disposal. The usual proton beams, an energy shield, and a PK bomb. The laser can shoot most of the ghosts, and the bomb destroys the wind echoes and flying blots easily. As you swing from side to side you have to pick up the three parts of the gloop scoop. These and replacement weapons are on ledges on the sides. Picking those up is the hardest part of this

section, but once you've done this it's onto Broadway.

Now the team have to reach the art museum and to get there before the new year they've animated the Statue of Liberty! You have to protect it from the flying squids, slimers and ghosts with but a mere fireball. This shoots missiles at the ghosts who once hit turn into drops of slime. Your loyal group of men can even run out to pick it up. This slime then adds to your energy which is reduced when hit.

This section of the game is tough to complete with hordes of ghosts swarming into the cracks. These are all well drawn and animated. Control of the fireball is simple and effective.

The final section of the game is at the museum. You have to rescue Oscar and destroy something called 'Morgue'

Cooperation: You start by abseiling in from the roof. It is another blasting section, and is also hard to play.

Ghostbusters: It is fairly well programmed. I liked the opening sequence which included digitized graphics from the film. The ghost graphics were the best (and most amusing). Unfortunately the game will fall down on it's lasting interest because the challenge is too insubstantial. Having said

that it is fun for a while. A score of some kind would have added interest. As it stands the only incentive to play is to complete it and not too many people will find that difficult. One for kids only.
ACC

73%

STBUSTERS

CHASE H.Q.

Supplier: OCEAN
Price: \$9.99 (Tape)

It seems that crime is paying more often these days because the bad guys to be seen with are driving Ferraris, Lamborghinis and Lotus. This would make catching them impossible for your run-of-the-mill police cruiser or Honda car, so at Chase H.Q. the law enforcers are given a turbo-charged Porsche 935 instead.

At Chase H.Q. no one ever shouts "R.I.S. OVER" to a criminal. They get to be forced off the road in true James Bond style. The difficulty of this task varies according to the level but then who said that being a speed cop was going to be easy?

While chasing the criminal you have to negotiate forks in the road, road signs and the other road users (who actually obey the speed limit) and all against the clock. You are given say seconds to teach him down. Crashing into other cars or roadside obstacles causes a catastrophic loss of speed (and time). Taking a wrong turn in the road means a loss into your chances of catching him at all.

If you finally catch up with the badgie, you are given a further say seconds to run him off the road. It is here that your turbo-charged in-handi 935's most handy being what they are, is also limited to three per game. Once activated, you chase him to speeds of over 300mph, in which you a definite edge. You

69%



then have to collide forcibly with the back of the rogue driver's car. Each time you do this successfully a hit is recorded. A gauge records the number of his hits before submission. Once the criminal submits, Nancy at H.Q. then gives you details of the next mission.

As a game, Chase H.Q. breaks very little new ground. The idea of running a car off the road is not new, now is the perspective view from above and behind your car. The car responds fairly well to speed and inertia so screaming around a corner at 300mph is a bit ideal. The graphics work fairly well with a good impression of an uneven road created. The impression of speed is not so good, and the whole game seems to take place in slow motion, the game played well enough, but it's perhaps a little tedious.

There is a damage meter on the side page but only engine sound to indicate the game. There is no high



score table but there is a high score recorded. Pushing the car off is the easiest part of the game, but once initiated you have so trouble completing the game. At the end you are given a rating from Car driver 100 to Expert. Which is a bit or least amusing.

And that's it. Nothing is particularly wrong with Chase H.Q. but it seems to lack the polish expected to it. It gives the feel of driving games on the market. And with only five levels, it has a small amount of replay value. ACC



Supplier: Hewson
Price: £9.99 (Case) £14.99 (Disk)



65%



Flippa is a small round thing with legs. Life as a small round thing with legs would be very boring if it were not for the mazes of the Upper Plane. These are jolly good fun to be in. For one thing every time Flippa takes a step he makes the flagstone which he's treading on flip over. This often changes its colour to another bright shade.

Flippa is basically happy when he's teazing around the mazes, flipping loads of paving stones over. Luckily there are other inhabitants of the plane who have nothing better to do than chase Flippa's energy. These take several nasty forms but none are as cute as Rippa.

Also deadly to Flippa's health are the gaps in the maze. These are gaps in the Upper plane and if taken through our hero dies. This is preferable to life in the inner space below. Luckily Flippa could give Olympic long jumpers training and can leap over the gaps. He can even run a mile out!

Some of the squares turn over a different colour to the rest. These are squares that need to be run over from in different direction. Flippa often has to back-track in order to change these again.

Occasionally Flippa encounters stones floating around the maze. These give him temporary immunity to the monsters and in some cases another life. Should Flippa turn off the squares the right colour he has to find the portal. This is a flashing square which transports him to the next maze.

The graphics are represented from above in forced perspective. The borders of the maze are varied according to the level. Each is colourful and well drawn. Flippa himself is a nicely done character, short and fat and blue. The monsters in the maze vary from excellently to poorly drawn and animated. Some are large and colourful, others are small and blurry. They seem to move randomly about the maze but it's easy to be tripped by them.

The game is very playable and fairly addictive. It has got enough frustration to keep you playing rather than annoying you. Should you progress through a level there is a restart option which functions twice in only one game. The levels are fairly tough, with each one taking up several screens. These are flip-screen rather than scrolling.

Having said that I feel that Hewson have taken a few steps back with Maze Monia. It's a cross between Pac-Mania and Gribble (remember that?). Maze games are the definition of originality and this one is no exception. Flippa has the cute potential to be a cut figure. But I doubt that this game will be successful enough to warrant a sequel. The truth is that there are far too many games of this type available already. Many of them are better than this one too. Unless you have money to burn or you are a real fan of maze games then try before you buy. **ACC**

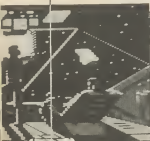
Space Rogue

Price: \$14.99 Disk
Supplier: Origin

What needs to
what is space.

You don't know what you have done to upset the Captain, but he always seems to pick on you when there is a dirty job in the office. Here you are in deep space looking forward to a decent bit of leave when the bridge reports an apparently abandoned spaceship just sitting there in the middle of nowhere with no apparent sign of life.

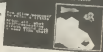
Naturally it's a suggestion that has to go and investigate. You reach the ship and confirm that there is no one aboard. You have used up your entire leave being spent waiting reports that no-one will ever read and are busy caring life the universe and everything when a Mondri raiding ship screams in from nowhere and blows your home for the last six months out of



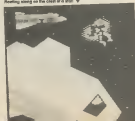
A. "It's about Jim Subculture?"



A. And it exploded with a bang!



Reeling along on the coast of a star!



the galaxy. You await a similar fate, but the Monks appear to have also logged this little craft as being devoid of any interest whatsoever and are gone just as quickly as they came. Maybe it's your lucky day after all.

The machine that you have just inherited is a brand new *Star Trek*. Even the instruction manual is still on the dashboard although someone has scrawled a few critical comments about some of the more fanciful advertising claims. Now does not appear to be the moment to sit and think about what the ship is doing eight years from anywhere. Instead, you roll up the navigation screen, select a friendly base and let the autopilot do the rest of the work as you try to figure out the various controls of your new toy.

Space Rogue from Origin is a sort of role with a few elements of role playing tacked on for added interest. You can follow the path of trader, pirate or bounty hunter or a combination, but all three paths will eventually lead to another much important quest: about which you know absolutely nothing. Talking to people gives you the odd clue about your final destiny. Nothing major you understand, just a little bit of intergalactic intrigue, a few assassination attempts and the fate of billions of people in your hand.

How you choose to behave affects what happens to you as the game progresses. Star imperial leaders, out of the door wily rilly and you might earn yourself a lot of money and space-cred but don't be surprised if you suddenly find a price on your head. You can't please all of the people all of the time. Above all though, talk to people. Knowledge is power even



A Space - the place between the stars



But little bugs mean it

If you don't always do the right thing when you power it!

Your space ship comes equipped with all mod cons but that doesn't mean that you can't add in a few optional extras such as nuclear tipped nova missiles - purely for self defence you understand. Many of the ship's functions are automatically controlled but you can choose to override them should you decide that's in your best interests. For instance, if the enemy is jamming your target acquisition computer, your missiles will probably go well wide of their mark. So turn off your on board store of fuel on computer and use good old hand to eye coordination instead.

There are plenty of other features in the game to get to grips with

such as choosing whether to use Newtonian or Cruise flight modes. Each has its advantages and disadvantages and both are likely to prove equally frustrating to the beginner learning to drive. Then there are the worm holes, huge tunnels in space allowing vast distances to be travelled in somewhat less than the usual time - or hour about a game of *Hex*? An arcade game with a price of the end - if you are any good.

Documentation is far class with an owner's guide to their new machine, star

map, short story and our model of two of the space craft included.

There is plenty to see and do in *Space Rogue* but all the action happens very slowly. This is not so much due to the game itself but the fact that disk copying - and there is a lot of it - seems to take for ever. Certainly I found myself wishing that the whole thing would speed up - there was too long a gap between anything interesting happening. There is a lot of game here if you just have the patience to dig it out. GH





RETROGRADE



Supplier: THALAMUS
Price: £12.99 (Disk)
£9.99 (Case)

chosen to stop this corner
Gues what... this means
blowing them to smithereens with your
blastin'!

This is the setting to
Retrograde: the latest
shoot'em up from
Thalamus. As usual it's one
man against the rest of the
universe. Fortunately you
have an arsenal to the
latest do-or-die bid to
overthrow Humanity. You
have a hugely destructive
laser pack. When the

game begins, you have a
small bullet type laser
beam. The mission
destroying the aliens quite
hard work, as they take
several hits to kill. Luckily
when shot they turn into
Avo. Avo is the local
currency and comes in 5
10 or 20 Avo sizes.

Once you have
collected lots of Avo, you
can go to the shop. It's a
various "power ups" for
your weapon including
extra shots, diagonal shots,
super shots and nips.
These all make blasting
the aliens that little bit
easier. In turn this makes

getting Avo that much
more simple. Also for sale
are weapons that can be
dropped to your fire. The
weapon is used Robocop
style to punch out the
aliens when you are
walking along the planet's
surface.

Collecting with aliens
drains the energy from
your shield. You start with
five shields, one a bit if the
energy reaches zero.
Helpfully an extra shield is
awarded with every
20,000 points. As well as
this, an alien occasionally
drops a "PDA" symbol. If
collected you have a
bonus shield which cannot
be replenished but you do
not lose a life if it is
depleted.

It would be nice if life
were as simple as that. But
you still have a whole
Universe to save, not just
one planet. On each
planet there are several
reaction clubs. As you punch
robots on the ground
occasionally one drops a
planet buster. Once
pinned, it can be coiled
down the shaft and
planted. This starts the
destruction of the planet.
Once all of the clubs have
been pinned then the
planet is destroyed. This
means that you spend
nicely fly around the
planet blasting... you must
combine it with a bit of the
Robocop too.

Your activity has not
gone unnoticed.
Predictably the evil owner
of the planet is none too
pleased at its destruction.
This is where the trouble
really starts. It appears to

A competition between
seven great evils in
the Universe is
underway to see who can
invade the most planets.
Not unreasonably, a few
people are a little
unhappy about this, and as
a person who votes with
his blaster, you have been

95%



▲ Choose death-spiral bits!

▲ Spray out death from every corner!

▼ I'll have a mega-large super mode!



▲ Oh no, don't put that large fire-breathing implement up there!

weapons later to buy newer ones.

Having said that, Retrograde is not particularly original. Countless games feature the idea of upgradable weapons and end-of-level monsters. The general character is similar to that used in many other games. However, this is no slur on a game which uses these elements well, and the one does.

Retrograde is a masterpiece of programming. It has addictive qualities, is extremely playable and looks and sounds impressive. If you like blasting games, then I cannot recommend it highly enough. Buy it ACC.

destroy you! In the form of a gigantic monster I think I've seen this before somewhere...

The evil monster resembles a cross between an octopus and a shubbity! You appear as deep space behind it, using just your painful weapons it must be destroyed in order for you to progress. It's heavily armed, launching missiles and shooting laser beams at you. As you destroy it pieces break off and it gets weaker. Kill it and you can progress to the next planet. There are seven in all, each one harder than the last. Later planets feature different spaces and backdrops, as well as more ducts. The end-of-level beings become more and more difficult to destroy, bigger and more heavily armed.

A lot of creativity and imagination has gone into the production of Retrograde. The game has not only concentrated on the graphics, not merely the gameplay. The result is a well-balanced game which uses the Commodore 64 to its maximum potential. The graphics are colourful and well animated, with smooth scrolling. Despite the number of spaces

which move around on screen, neither the speed nor the smoothness suffer as a result.

There are many clever touches in Retrograde. As the game loads you get a choice of seven different tunes. These vary from slow melodies to tunny rhythms

and all are well programmed. Selecting weapons is handled by highlighting the weapon you want to buy, then pressing the fire button. This means that control can be handled purely from the joystick itself. I liked the idea of being able to sell

TOOBIN

56%



Supplier: DOMARK
Price: £14.99 (Disk)
£9.99 (Cass)

If you've ever fantasised about downing some of the most dangerous rivers in the world, but were scared off by the rats involved, perhaps you'd rather try it in a rubber tube. That's the challenge that Toobin offers you in this arcade conversion from Domark.

As either Bill or Jet you must paddle down rivers and rapids. Your tube does not puncture or leak; you just bounce off. Floating at the top of the river, you have to negotiate your way to the party at the other end. As if this were not dangerous enough, there are many added dangers along the way. These include fly fishermen, water snakes, a hungry crocodile and sub-aqua cods! All of these hazards puncture your tube and lose you a life.

On top of all these dangers, there are anti-social party posers along the river banks. These will try everything in their power to stop Bill and Jet from obtaining their goal. Fortunately, you are not defenceless. Beer cans can be collected en route which you can throw at the various enemies which line the river bank, stunning them for long enough for you to escape past them. There are also rapids which rush you quickly down the vertically scrolling screen and gates which award bonus points if successfully negotiated.

Progression is achieved in the time-honoured fashion of frenetically

paddling with your hands either backwards or forwards, and rotating left or right with your feet. This is a funniest mode of control, which is very easy to misjudge.

This would be all very well, but the game is utterly let down by its graphics. The Toobies, Bill and Jet, look like watercooler men and some of the riverine enemies are entirely indistinguishable from the background. The ones you can see include several harpooning Aphrodisians and the fly fishermen resemble disoriented Legomen. Some of the objects you collect look like beds of nails, rangerines and shankens.

Some of the hazards are almost impossible to avoid, as the scrolling often hides them until you're on top of them. Add to this the fiddly control system which often gets you stuck on a gate and eaten by the crocodile, and you'll soon be headbumping the keyboard in frustration.

I remember seeing this game in the arcade, and its attraction was its colourful graphics. Domark have unfortunately failed to convert them with any degree of accuracy, and so the game loses its over-appeal. Apparently Bill and Jet are in search of the most outrageous party they can find. Six old-age pensioners drinking lemonade and drinking to the Girdy Song would doubtless be more entertaining than this dire effort.

There is a two-player option for the brave, but I doubt if anyone would dare show this to their friends, for sake of losing them. This has the feel to me of an arcade conversion which has been rushed out to compete with other versions. There is no excuse for this. Avoid this game. ACC.

Dan Dare

When the evil Meklon luffs you one sure to find the Inter Galactic hard Dan Dare. In this the third computerized confrontation Dan must escape from the Meklon's clutches. Caught while sleeping Dan finds himself inside in the Meklon's hideaway cavernoid. His only hope of escape is via a lone fighter he has discovered the only problem is it is low on fuel. So Dan sets forth jet packs on back (gun in hand) ready for all space-borne monstrosities. The Meklon may care to throw at him.

Dan starts his adventure in the storage area, but even here the hazards lurk. After blowing a few mutants they weren't until they met with the Meklon's surgeon with his portable mutant blaster he comes face to face with his adversary. Dan leaps at the chance to destroy his age-old adversary but it is not to be. After exchanging plasma bolts the Meklon heads for summer dinner, with his personal teleporter. However all is not lost as he leaves behind a pass for the public teleporter. Before cloaking off to adventures save a quick scan of the surroundings reveal two computer terminals. One supplies fuel for the jet packs but the other is a far more versatile machine. At this terminal Dan can purchase

82%

extra weaponry in the form of bouncing bombs, smart bombs and extra ammunition for his blaster. It is also possible to buy extra lives here if you have the cash.

Using the teleporter brings about its own hazards. As Dan sails through the ether he must be guided through a tunnel of squares which come at him. Failure to correctly navigate a square results in damage which in turn can lead to an early demise. If you die during teleportation your body is returned to the scoring teleport terminal before you resume with another life.

The second level is slightly larger and contains even more mutants. Once again you find the Meklon and slug it out. Now you have your third pass you can choose your destination. Here lies the strategy element of the game; you can risk all by assaulting the next level or you can play it safe and return to the stores for a few more lives and some extra jet-power. After a few levels you have enough fuel to escape so with all haste you return to the stores, access the terminal and blast off into, no not the wilds of space, but the blast doors. After

Inter Galactic Hard Dan Dare
Available on most Microcomputers



slightly past half of the level the player will find the Meklon. Using the jet packs, the player can avoid the hazards of the level.

During the level the player can use the jet packs to avoid the hazards of the level.

During the level the player can use the jet packs to avoid the hazards of the level.



F-16 COMBAT PILOT

Digital Integration have a long-founded reputation for producing state-of-the-art simulations. F-16 Combat Pilot is the latest of these. As expected, it sets the standards that all other flight sims will be judged by.

You have a choice of either training, Glitchstart or a fully fledged mission. These include Toolbuser, Despatcher and Scramble. You can select a squadron to get up in, in the air straight away. This puts you at the end of the runway with a mixture of weapons.

Slam open the throttle and pull back on the stick. The computer greets you with a realistic whine of engines as the speed increases. The screen updates smoothly and fast with hardly any flicker. Once in the air there are countless displays to keep track on. Nothing is automatic; you even have to raise the undercarriage. There are displays for altitude, speed and pitch. Also shown are current missiles, several radar and fuel levels.

The emphasis is most definitely on simulation, not game. You have to have a good head for technical details or you won't get very far. Once airborne it's a good idea to fly around for a while. This helps you to get the feel of the craft. Do a few tiny sweeps for a few miles

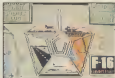
Supplier: Digital Integration
Price: £9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

— who said that simulations aren't fun?

Of course there is a more serious side to the game. There are five in-depth missions. Before starting one you have to

equip your plane from scratch. You can select various missiles and other add-ons to your heart's content. Clearly different missiles will be used for different missions. For the scramble mission you'll need air-to-air missiles, for Toolbuser air-to-ground are better. Add-ons include flares and extra fuel tanks.

When equipped, you then have to find your way out of the hanger. Even this comparatively simple operation is certainly not easy. It requires a very delicate touch on the controls indeed if you are to avoid crashing. When you've eventually found



the runway again in its take-off time. This should by now be a routine operation.

Back in the air, and HQ2 will begin to broadcast information to you. This will be relevant to the mission and may be as simple as the position of the next target.

Alternatively it could be a battle station alert. There are also five different radar-type displays. These show ground targets, maps and other vital information.

Depending on your mission, you may then have to fly to a target to strike, or seek out an enemy plane. You can enable your combat computer once engaged. This helps you to plan your attacking strategy. You can lock a missile on your target, or blast away with your guns.

Of course the enemy have also got out their best pilots. These are all intent on sending you to an early stone funeral. They know all of the tricks in the book and will use them mercilessly. Fortunately for all you budding top guns out there, you get a copy of the book.

This is the flight manual. It is essentially 'The ABC of how to fly an F-16'. Included in this hallowed tome is a detailed breakdown of the various types of missile. This is very useful as it helps to plan your aiming of the plane. There are sections detailing taking off and landing, taxing and combat procedures. These are especially useful and are worth perusing. Even if you can't perform a reverse alarm loop with west, it'll impress your friends if you say you can!

The book is well produced and written. If you don't read it before taking off it's like using a plug without knowing which way is live. Certainly the missions are far harder without the essential

88%

background knowledge. The missions can all be altered to suit your skill level. If you have the inclination you can enter the map with icons but don't expect to complete the mission easily.

The plane isn't at all discriminate about how you write it off. Whether

you scrape the top of the control tower or take a missile in the backside the screen shakes. All that hard work down the drain. Luckily you can start all over again on a different mission.

F-16 Combat Pilot is a milestone in Commodore programming. Despite the

program's huge size and complexity the speed does not suffer. There are thirty-three controls including the more obscure ejector seat, fuel and weapons dump and outcaptor. Cranking all of these into the 64 while retaining the gameplay and speed is a true achievement. Digital Integration should be proud of the effort when they could so easily have bogged out a commission or other do ACC.



If you're a speed, a speed for speed!



It's gonna be a good day

44 While bracketed after training

Are her up?

LEISURE GENIUS 'Classics'

Supplier: Virgin Mastertronic
Price: £19.99 Disk, Tape

Nothing brings the family together on those dual winter evenings better than a good old fashioned board game. The problem lies in those dual winter evenings spent alone. There are two solutions to this problem one is to become a psychopath and develop a few extra personalities and the other is to buy the Leisure Genius 2 Pack from Virgin Mastertronic.

Three board games are presented in their packaging splendour for your delectation. Cluedo, Scrabble, Go (Lute and Monopoly). All three games have previously been released but this is the first time that they have been presented in a single package and for the paltry sum of £19.99.

The first game to roll under my scrutiny is Cluedo. The essence of the original board game has been preserved with a few minor additions so only a computer can do it. When the characters appear ready for their trip around the board a little ditty is played which corresponds to the current character.

All of the participating characters can be under either human or computer control. It is even possible to select the intelligence

level of each computer controlled character. A number of options are presented to the player each turn. It is possible to make the final accusation, a simple suggestion or review the cards you hold. There is also a notes option which displays the notes the computer automatically makes for you character as the game progresses.

The graphical representation of the board occupies two thirds

of the screen with the remaining third displaying the current character and a lot of options. The only disadvantage of this game occurs when more than one human player is playing. When you view your notes or cards you must cover a portion of the screen so the other players do not gain an unfair advantage when they see your cards.

Monopoly is a desktop board game and this is a decent conversion.

Go (Lute) is the computer version is identical to that of the board version. Once again there is the problem of covering part of the screen to view your cards but apart from that this is a fun conversion. For the single or limited group of players it is possible to have a number of computer controlled characters each with a user defined IQ.

The race around the board holds the familiar thrills as the mad dash for the expensive properties begins. One advantage of the computer version is that you will lose none of the cards and the computer handles all the banking functions, a blow to those slight of hand players.

The problem with playing only against computer controlled characters is that you cannot see them sweat as the dice roll and they approach your hotels. At least you can see the computer characters to the lower level and give them a severe thrashing.

The final game in this selection is Scrabble De-Luxe. This is by far the excellent and most playable of the conversions. Although you don't see each other's letters this does not unduly disrupt the





Supplier: Accolade
Price: \$9.99 (Cass) £14.99 (Disk)

Test Drive II: The Duel is the sequel to Accolade's very successful driving simulator. While the first game was more of a simulation, The Duel is much more of a race game. However, this does not mean that the quality of the driving has suffered. It's just that the emphasis is more on fun in

this version.

Howling is grey Porsche has made you friends and enemies. One of these drives a red Lamborghini and has challenged you to a race. Not wishing to lose credibility you rise to the challenge.

On loading you are given several options. Both cars are displayed with a

detailed description of each beside. Here you can choose which car to drive. Each has its pros and cons, but they're roughly equal in performance. You can choose to take on the Duel straight away, or either practice or race against the clock. As with any pseudo realistic game, it's worth a practice before jumping in at the deep end.

The clock is a fairly hard game which should set you up for the main challenge. The start with

you sitting in front of your opponent. You can see him in your rear view mirror, but obviously can't see enough to give you a head start. Along the road Speed Limit 50mph? Well, you'll encounter other drivers. These merely serve to obstruct you as you race. Hitting one of these makes you lose one of your five lives.

You have to refuel at the petrol stations en route. Yes, one, and it's game over time. Your computer



opponent is a mean driver and will try to force an error from you in order to win. There are many skill levels, including a choice of manual or automatic transmission. At the higher levels the enemy becomes meaner and faster than ever. He weaves about in front of your car, trying to get you to crash. The other cars are more frequent and cause more trouble for you.

It's very easy to miss a gear change or a crucial moment and lose the Duel. Understandably this leads to a distinct loss of street credability. Of course you must re-challenge your adversary—in the hope that you can beat him this time.

The Duel is a very good driving game/came simulation. It's hard enough to keep control of a performance car without the added worry of a race. The graphics are updated well and smoothly and the perspective effect is successful. The game is very reminiscent of Test Drive and as such is as fun as running as it could be.

However if you don't own Test Drive or would

rather be racing than on the run, check out The Duel. It might be what you're looking for. On its own merits the game is very good. Indeed, it's fun to play and sufficiently difficult to keep you playing for some hours. Driving heads should check it out. **A-CC**



82%



CHAMBERS
OF

shaolin





XC
ESTD 1989
POSTER No 3

GRANDSLAM

THALION

GHOULS AND GHOSTS

Supplier: US Gold

Price: £9.99 (Cons) £14.99 (RSC)

75%

The original Ghoul and Goblins featured our Knight in shining armour. He had a quest: to rescue his kidnapped lady from the clutches of evil. Well, guess who? Arthur the Knight is back. Guess what? He has to rescue the Princess Hu!77 from the clutches of evil. Ho hum. You'd have thought that Arthur would have found something different to do after three years.

Still, a Knight has to do what a Knight has to do. Arthur is lined out (as before) in his sun of parent body, bathing armour. This disappears if he is hit. Arthur then has only his underpants for protection. He has a silver lance (sold) with which he can slice the nasties into kebabs. As Arthur runs across the barren, plains of depravity and evil he encounters chests. Shooting these reveals either a secret weapon or a magazine. The secret weapons range from knives to magical bombs. These can far more easily destroy the nasties than the lance.

The magicians are fearless men in vampire costumes. These are deadly to the touch, but can be repelled on you. This turns you into a duck for about five seconds. This can be useful if you need to avoid lots of nasties as you're far smaller. When you run back into Arthur your armour is replenished.

Life is not all plain sailing for Arthur. After all there is the little master of



A But little metal sword



AHush, creep and sneak again



A It's better like this I wish I hadn't thrown away my big sword!

the nasties he has to dispatch. These vary from the Grimegator to flying Teasmanton Devils. All of them cause damage to Arthur. Other static hazards

include collapsing floors, guillotines and suit throwing fires. At the end of each level Arthur encounters a huge demonic monster. This is

fierce and shoots fireballs at Arthur. Should Arthur stab him enough times with his weapon then he can progress to the next level.

The third level gives Arthur a change of task. He now stands on a floating platform. As it rises up a shaft he is beset by yet more nasties. Smart Knights crawl out of the walls to haunt him. Boss fly around and drop blobs onto him. Ghosts snap at him with giant pairs of scissors. This level makes a nice change from the horizontally scrolling other levels.

Ghouls and Ghosts is not a particularly brilliant game at all. Not much imagination has been put into the characters or the backgrounds. Arthur is as black as he was in the first game all that time ago. The monsters are not badly drawn but still aren't fantastic. It's quite difficult to shoot across the screen. Arthur tends to shoot up by mistake.

The title, Ghouls and Ghosts, is a playable game. It has good additive qualities and is a nice shoot 'em up. The extra weapons are a fun if fairly ineffective addition to the game. The game has terrific music which partly makes up for its other shortcomings. My advice is to try before you buy. **ABC**

Supplier: Line! Magic
Price: \$9.99 (Cass.) £14.99 (Disk)

If you've ever had the inclination to become world champ, then perhaps this game could be for you. Hopefully you'll make it if you don't hang yourself first! Yes, this is a frustrating game!

No one ever said that fighting your way up to the top would be easy. In fact to prove the point you have to start by bowling in

Other moves include clinching (this makes the boxes feel) and what's supposed to be dancing. On screen the boxes appear to be about to lose their breakfast. They reach backwards and forwards from the waist. Fortunately the nausea seems to pass when you release the control.

The graphics on this

player made which is a fun addition. This is a great game if you like bowling

and enjoy a long term challenge. **AGE**

69%

THE CHAMP

the street. These fights are all very well organised though. There's all a bell and three minute sounds. The corners aren't any though. You can end up at either side of the street.

As usual in this type of game, there are a variety of moves to knock the stuffing out of your opponents. You can jab, hook, body punch and uppercut. Also you can throw a Kicker Punch. This is a glorified uppercut which takes about a second a hit. It is also wildly inaccurate and fails to land about 90% of the time. However the computer boxer manages to land it on you about once in every three attempts. This is to say the least annoying. If more than one of these killer blows hits you then it's Knock Out time for you.

This seems to happen almost every game. You box away at the latter street boxer using a variety of moves. He then turns around and dabbles smug out of you with a couple of killer KO time again. It is possible to beat the occasional fighter but then the next will take out his vengeance.

section are reasonable but not excellent. Although later, the street and the slugs are well drawn. The boxes are very chunky indeed. They look as if they're built from steel-planks. They move fairly well without flickering. Slows are greeted with a solid thud and the bell rings convincingly. There's no music though.

If you're diligent (and extremely patient) you might get discovered by a professional coach. He'll see that you get to fight in the ring. However, in between the street and the ring is the gym phase. This is an optional training phase which is a little repetitive but makes a pleasant change. Once in the ring the boxes start to get really tough. Fight on through and after a lot of suffering and pain you may get a shot at becoming the champ.

The Champ has the potential to be a really great game. However it is let down by being completely frustrating. The computer boxer often pulls out a couple of deadly shots and your work is wasted. There is a two





JOHN FOOT

Supplier: Electronic Arts
Price: £14.99 (Disk)

For the uninitiated John Madden is a fat blonde American with an iconic grin who is a renowned football coach. It is he who has lent his

name (and image) to the Electronic Arts strategy simulation.

This is the best ever attempt of bringing the rough tough world of Linebackers, Quarterbacks and Refrigerators to the home computer. It relies totally on your making the right decisions instead of arcade skills. This works perfectly and as a result the game is very complicated.

For those of you who have never switched on Channel 4 on a Sunday evening, American Football is a little like a

FUN #1

90%



▲ "This's the place in the Sunday"

cross between Rugby and Rollerball. Two teams of

JOHN MADDEN FOOTBALL

thirteen huge attempts to throw, catch and carry a small leather ball into the "endzone." Should they be successful, then a "Touchdown" is the result.

Each play is intended to catch out the opposition and run the ball into the endzone. As well as a touchdown, you can elect to kick a field goal.



Accept it, it's the only thing you'll get! **A**

This scores three points but is better than losing the ball.

You have four attempts to carry the ball ten yards. This is known as a first down. If it fails and the possession turns over to the other team. This also happens if the ball is dropped or a pass is intercepted by an opposing player.

John Madden Football is a superb game. It has captured all of the subtle complexities of what is a very complicated and involved sport. For those of you who like an arcade type game, as well as a

strategy you can assume control of the players on screen. The graphics are fairly well defined, but a little blocky. This means that it is sometimes very difficult to see what's going on. However, the same is true of the real sport so it is excusable of the computer version.

The packaging is very extensive: there is a handbook, two pamphlets which individually detail offensive and defensive plays and a "season ticket." This is a revolving card deck which contains codes to access the program and discourage piracy. The books are well written and contain with clear instructions and step by step guides to play.

This is not a game where you can sit down and enjoy it instantly. You have to understand the sport first. Then you have to understand the program. It works extremely well once you sort out the way it is structured. Then you'll be absolutely hooked. You won't be able to drag yourself away from the screen, and you've won a few key plays. Sure to be a hit with fans of the sport. **A++**



A Football is a game for big bulky men named after athletes.

This scores six points. The kicker then has a chance to score the extra point by kicking the ball over the goalposts. Neil Gynn would be good at it then, isn't it? The game is very much a physical contact sport. The teams are all lined out in packs and helmets to avoid injury.

The sound is quite simple, but the game is also very subtle too. There are many different variations on the basic pass or running plays. These are all named, including "slugger," "pocket" and



Oh no, the balls are dropped... **A**

baragin bucket

STREET HASSLE

Supplier: Virgin Mastermix
Price: £2.99

Street Hassle is an ancient game and one that passed by many of us without much notice. It now appears again on a budget price and blows its second-hand mumpster a lot louder this time.

Considering its name I doubt that it comes as much of a surprise that it is a knock-em up. You are a half-screen high game wearing, but a golden thing to save you from embarrassment. Your moves are legendary and your hair is the right colour of blonde to make lesson fans go giddy.

The Hasser part of the title comes from the fact that you are often crooked by people and animals. Gags, gaffes and what looks like old granites all rain blows upon your poor body and



you also must do the same to them (my favorite is the recent headbanging technique). A strange game? Sure. Hoolie has many faults, glitches, and only three levels, but at its low found price it could be described as worthwhile fun.

79%



A headbanging headbanger

NEUTRALIZOR

82%

Supplier:

E-J Software

Price: \$2.99

Another game that makes no pretense aims for the budget market and comes suitably. It's Neutralizor. A game by E-J Software, best known for its serious sport simulations.

It is best suited for the budget market as it is very limited, but fun. It is a shoot-em-up without an awful lot of thought. A sort of cross between Defender and Uziway without being much like either of them.

You scroll from one side to another collecting radiation pods and burning their quantities and then it's onto the next planet. There are three planets and might about all.

Shoot, fly, fly, shoot, murder, & mayhem!

The graphics are reasonable, that sound is acceptable, and the gameplay is simple. What more do you want? RM



SAILING

Supplier: Virgin
Mastertronic
Price: £1.99

I can't really decide whether I liked this game or not, and I think this is a problem that most will find. I don't love it, I don't hate it, in fact I'm rather numb about the whole caboodle.

You get a chance to build yourself a yacht and race against many other countries in a not too accurate simulation of the salt water sport of yachting.

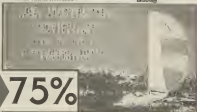
The boat creation part is very good and the decisions you make here do have effect in the race. The race is a doddle to handle as all you have to do is steer and raise and lower your spinnaker. (Watch Jones go to the corner for giggling.)

Everything about this game is rather outstanding not least. As for the Rod Jensen's voice really it is pleasant while going at the same time. **Word** **is!**



Good old Rod Jensen's other voice. Y

A. Shows sailing, boat handling



MOVING TARGET



Supplier: Playtex
Price: £2.99

The evil drugs duke of Columbia must die and you are the man ON to kill him. This is only if you can stay awake long enough to bother.

Moving Target is another budget game that has been marked out with no other intention but to make a fast buck. It is so bad that it could make milk curdle.

The gameplay owes

much to the horizontal arcade adventures of the past (and this goes some way to prove why it is so bad now). The graphics, sound and play are very substandard (and although I did try my hardest to get somewhere, I was always left with the same case in my mouth: The state of boredom and disappointment.



34%

Fear and not worthy of any price. One thing though, it's hell of a lot better than Pro Pacman Bros Simulator '94.

Supplier: Players Price: £2.99

Unfortunately the game is not based upon a large aquatic terror as the title suggests. Instead it is an underwater

arcade adventure in the tradition of Cyberoid (in fact, there is very little relevance with the title at all).

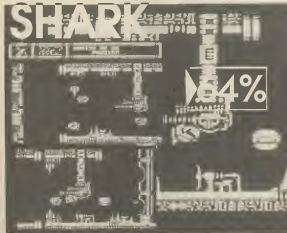
The underwater mining complex Atlantic Five has been overrun (possibly by the Snake brothers (that makes sense), and you in

your little bubble of a craft must investigate. And this is the "Ultimate underwater combat experience" other all.

The similarities with Cyberoid (so many that I have to mention it twice) are not to be overlooked and only if you enjoyed

the original will you find this in any way rewarding. Admittedly though, the graphics are better, and the game is smooth.

It is cheap and it's not my cup of tea, more a cup of salt water. Somebody will enjoy it. AH.



SNARE

Price: £9.99 Tape,
£12.99 Disk
Supplier: Thalamus

78%

The Snare is a rich maze game turned into a poor man's nightmare. The rich man is long gone, but his legacy remains. Few would enter this deadly maze if it were not for the labled treasures it contains. So popular has this deadly game become that half the world watches from

the safety of its home as the cameras pit self and we against the Snare.

Your time has come at last. You enter the maze in a highly mobile hovercraft, the only ornaments being a small cannon, the ability to leave a trail behind you and, most importantly, your wit. As for the maze

confounds the mind as each ninety degree turn of your craft rotates not you but the maze. This means that no matter how you twist and turn you always moved up the screen. The first few minutes spent in the maze result in many a crash until your brain adjusts to this novel method of rotation.

Threaded your way through the walls and pits of the Snare is complicated by the patterned tiles which lie scattered on the floor. Some rotate your craft involuntarily, other slow it down, increasing your timing but others accelerate your craft usually into a wall. Learning the effect of each tile is almost as important as finding the exit.

When you have

mastered the art of wall avoidance you must face the challenge of the robots. These misanthropic fiends patrol the maze with deadly intent. Your cannon can account for the early death but in later levels they become indestructible. You only hope of avoiding these creatures is to wall them off with your impenetrable mail.

The third major hazard to your health are the pits and chains. To clear these you need a good run-up and good timing to use the jump capabilities of your craft.

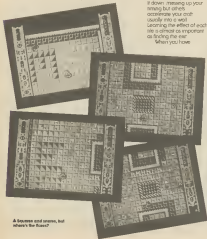
Each level has its own hazards and internal conditions, before entering each maze you are given a read out of these conditions and the effects they have upon your craft. Certain levels cause some of your ship's functions to fail thus creating new complexities for you to overcome.

To add your quest for fame and fortune a bonus ship is awarded every twenty thousand points. To help you accumulate this variable fortune in bonus points bonuses can be collected from air vents which sporadically appear in the maze. Caution should be exercised when harvesting bonus points as the air vents do not always blow favourably for your craft.

Although mastering the variations of the maze is far from easy (even after your brain has ceased reeling from the unusual method of movement) it is strangely addictive.

The allure of this game lies not in the average graphics or the bloop of your cannon but in the challenge it presents. Your ship responds well to your commands allowing those with quick reflexes to handle even the most stringent of the maze's tests.

AP



A Square and circle, but where's the Snare?



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ASA

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 3. **CITY**
 4. **STATE**
 5. **ZIP**
 6. **PHONE**
 7. **FAX**
 8. **E-MAIL**
 9. **WEBSITE**
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Championship
£9.99 **Golf**



1. The first step is to identify the problem. In this case, the problem is that the system is not working properly.

THE GULF
OF THE GULF OF THE GULF

Abstract

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Welcome to the Federation: this is an unparalleled chance to explore strange worlds, meet interesting aliens and get your head blown off.

As a new recruit you not only have to combat the hidden menace of the raiders but face the danger of budget cuts. This does not mean the scenery will wobble or the aliens will wear diving suits but something far more malicious. Thrown into deep space by the Federation you are left to your own devices armed only with a combat jacket, blaster and a twin-axe computer-guided interrogator-combat ship.

Together with your four other crew members (all five crew members can be created individually or you

SENTINEL WORLDS 1

can use the five provided) you must learn the identity of the mysterious raiders and counter the threat. To do this you will place your life in peril many times as you seek out new encounters and knowledge. Tuning into the Federation's frequency allows you to pick up information on recent hostile actions and if you are lucky you can arrive in time to blast a few aliens.

The journey starts on board your drift vessel (a quite different one from the raiders

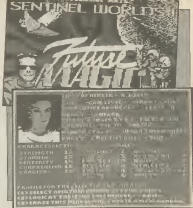
and fleet of computers). Using your eight directional movements you guide your craft to the alien. Here you can lock onto a vessel to either communicate or attack. If activated your losses are automatically at the nearest enemy. To prevent a raider from escaping your wrath you can utilise the ship computer and instant it to shadow the enemy vessel. Many of the computer functions can be improved if you crew have the nerve and skill to

reverse the programs. But beware: the unskilled can decrease the efficiency of the computer as easily as enhancing it.

After finding blows with the enemy and securing a few credits for your trouble you can begin the search for information. There are two main ways of gathering information about the raiders. The most dangerous method is to cripple and board a hostile vessel, also recommended for weaker beginning parties, or you can visit the

many worlds for a quick chat. When landing on a world you search from the spaceship to on all terrain vehicles. With this vehicle you can explore the subtleties of land home life. If any of the life gets a little restless you can always blast it from the safety of your ATV. Exploring towns is a great way to pick up information but for those that prefer to face confrontation there are always the battle suits.

When sized-up a crew



A. KENT

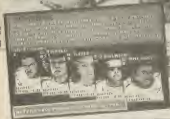
B.

T. J. ROLAND

4.

R. HADD

S.



70%

member can tackle the alien menace with their own two hands (if it's an all-human crew). The sat computer provides the graphics needed to navigate the landscape as well as providing information on alien encountered and the out status.

It's refreshing to encounter a role-playing game that does not rely upon brown and a keen blade. The marvelous quest for knowledge is fun, but the control and graphics of your ship in flight and combat leave much to be desired.

AP

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LONG RANGE

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 2 X 1000 HP 1000 HP
 2 X 1000 HP 1000 HP

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 200 704 100
 100 100

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POST APOCALYPSE

He's got he's rod! he's
absolutely MENTAL. Put
your hands together, or
he'll blow them off, for the
second most scandalous
freelancer in the world
(second to Duncan Evans)
POST APOCALYPSE Er
Where have you all gone?

Oro, Whiffy

I think you are the most offensive
most bad mouthed, pile of shit in
the world. You probably even smell
bad!
Gone! Whiffy! Broomstroke

PA: Thank Dorcas!

Question Time

I think YC is cool, but I have a few
questions I'd like to throw at you



gerical direction?

1. Is YC a new name for the old (and excessively boring) Your Commodore?
 2. Who does your artwork?
 3. Why is the Purple Fishhead really?
 4. Is the Mountain Bike Simulator really THAT bad?
 5. How many entries do you get for each competition (is it worth entering)?
 6. What is your favourite game?
 7. Is Blackcat ever going to print a map for Super Wombatboy?
- Peter Mills: Coventry

PA: 1. Yes. 2. Lee Birmingham-Wood, Alan Lathwell and now Pak Henderson himself all contribute sketches. 3. The Purple Fishhead (are you thick or something?) 4. Yep (as Pak tells me). 5. Well over a thousand, but it's worth entering for the sake of causing Pak more hassle. 6. Anything with loads of death in it. 7. Yep, pretty soon!

F-A-M-A

Has anybody noticed the similarities
between Pak Henderson and
Mossy (at Smith's home) and now a
year on?) I think Mossy is great so
this is a big compliment from me
Sharon Campbell: Edinburgh

PA: Oh bloody hell, it's a likemint!
Now you've blown it, his head's the
size of Mount Everest already

Amazing Feet

Has Jim Buck ever played a game
before? His review of Double
Dragon II was well out of order

He freely admits that he has
never played Double Dragon and
he gives a great game. In my view
a complete slating! If he cannot be
bothered to play the game beyond
level two then he shouldn't be
allowed to review it. I think
William Hutton: Bradford

PA: Sorry, but I couldn't be bothered
to read the rest of your rubbish!

Stick That Jimmy

I notice that in the February issue of
Your Commodore (sorry YC!) a
magazine that I have been buying



A. BROWN



A. BROWN

for three years now that you have included an article about violence. I have no quibbles against the printing of such material as long as it is done in a matter that is not offensive.

Unfortunately, although the real itself was of a very professional nature, the way in which it was presented was in very poor taste indeed. The title 'Go Alan Brown' was completely unnecessary, and in my mind was only used for that 'Shock' effect that it may have. The pictures were far too explicit for the games mag that you have now seemed to become, and the alarming array of weaponry that adorn each page only helps to glorify the subject matter.

Come on boys, what are you doing? I have children, none of which I shall be allowing to read the so-called 'Children's Magazine' *Argus House* (Lundberg-Hall).

PA. What a pleb! Don't you realise mate, that the inclusion of violent pictures serves to satiate the explicit of the subject matter. Children must be fed bad imagery to be able to signify what is right and wrong. Anyway, what is wrong with violence?

Arched ©

I have noticed that in your last two issues of YC, a superb magazine since the change, there have been many references to the crew of Acid House (even on your own page), especially in the artwork. Does this mean that you are a 'rover' or a 'rapper'?

I prefer such bands as Per Shop, Boys, New Order and Yello myself. James Harrow, Rottenmouth.

PA. Acid House, gold! Hope I'm a Death, Death, Death and the Death fan too. He mentions that he's gone into the club scene (Green Cherry, De La Soul, Lil Louis) as well as any old black country blues (John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf), and is into The Nations and US. And Aulian likes anything with Sheep in it.

Don't about it yet again, doesn't time it when you're abusing someone. A thought for the next? Never cross an alligator with a tree with such thin disease. Its bite would be as bad as its bark!

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In this See-Dee-age
Codemasters jump on the
band wagon. Jeff Davy
examines its daring
intentions

Some: The Blue Peter studio
(Heavenly life to children)
Today we're going to connect
our 64 to our CD player. What
we need is a computer, a hi-fi, a set
of headphones, sharp scissors and a
roll of double-sided sticky tape.

Now plug the
headphones into
the hi-fi, and with
the sharp scissors
you might need a
grown up to help you cut out the
wire just below it gets to the
headphones. Poke the wire into the
joystick port, stick it down with the
sticky tape. Turn everything on and
CHALLENGE YOUR CIRCLE!

SDC Announcer: Oh dear, we
seem to have lost Blue Peter's
"Neighbours". Here's an episode of
the popular sitcom. Whooops (shop
your Commodore's on the...)



a David Davy
- Computer
industry
genius, best
friend, double
sided sticky tape
expert, Dad.

Thankfully, the Code Masters
boys have one they prepared
earlier: a lead to connect a CD
player to a 64 and a disc (compact
music) to go with it containing thirty
four games. What's more: it's only
£19.95.

How did all this happen?

Captain Mike Clark, the codes PR,
superstar. Nobody does anything
original. While musing about this
Ted Danson programme of
International Rugby for the 64 (was
Gays Mike?) given some hardware
to play with which he opened up
and found out how it worked.



The Dingles and Pils games Mike
Clark.



a Richard Goring
- 64 - David's cousin.

I have a general interest in
technology, says Ted, with a CD
you can have lots of information
and get at it quickly - it's random
access. Rather badly, the system
is using the 64's speaker to
playback the CD.

Ted came up not only with a
cable, but a way of loading games
in around 30 seconds from CD. The
game Code Masters the idea to
produce - as David Drying puts it: a
compilation with style - the best of
Code Masters.

They did it because they found
that 30-60% of people who buy the
Code Masters games have CDs.
Lucky dogs! If this compilation was
released on disk it would take of
lots of tape and tape, right, all that
winding back and forth!

It's of more advantage to 64-er

users with cassette-based systems,
concedes Richard Goring. The 64
version actually has the edge, says
Mike: "we all love the machine"
(that's enough to bring to 64
owners).

Being a rather technical chappie,
Ted demonstrated how it worked.
You plug one end of the cable into
the CD player's headphone socket
and the other into the joystick port.
Because of a tangle of components
at one end of the special cable, the
64 can understand the CD - even
better after playing in a small
loader program from the disc.

To get a game, you just select
the required track (game) and
whatsoever there it all if you press.

Because you just need to select
another track and that begins to
load.

If you have the cable, you're
going to find it very useful, says
Mike, reasonably. Then could be
any number of special products in
the future. Bigger games, huge
multitools, endless capacity for
secret sub-games and hidden
levels... fantastic possibilities. For
instance, he tells no reason why

there couldn't be a real Dragon's Lair for the hell on a CD—anything that takes on massive amounts of storage would be a cinch, he boasts.

None of this explains a mysterious "research mission" to the Far East. Richard and Ted announced they were going to Taiwan, recalls Mike—they said they were staying for four days. They ended up staying for three weeks! What did they do? Maybe the company might accept answers on a postcard in a return for a CD pack? Maybe not.

Review 'n' rating

To review every one of the staggering amount of games is a

Ted
Garcia...
Designer
of the CD
system
and
protector
of
"savage
hand"
CD
players



STERS CD'S

Herculean task. So I'm not going to do it. (You're no Hercules, are you?) So! As Mike Clark put it, "It would be difficult to recommend one game as devastatingly outstanding given that there are so many good games on it."

There are some real corkers on it. *ATV Simulator* (a great cross-country buggy game for two players) is probably one of the best. If not the best. Mike explained how fast it was: fifty frames a second, the fastest you can update it—but then he wrote the game!

There's also *Pro Ski Simulator* (another great two-player game that's more full of on-piste action), treasure-hound *Clayton* (an arcade-adventure puzzle game for eggheads) and *Four Season Simulation* (er, four seasons games).

For those up and what do you get (scribble scribble)... nearly £19 just for those four. And there's another twenty games on the CD anyway!

For an incredible 56p a game you can't really go wrong. You also

get fast loading and a mega-useful manual.

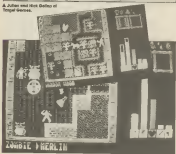
I can see only one disadvantage you need a CD player!



Ted again, b-
looking in let
magazine when
selling the
CD



▲ Julian and Nick Galloway of Torgue Games.



▲ Lands of Chaos. ▲

Jetthey Davy, his name sounds like groovy, targets a small software house with large ambitions.

Want to see an octopussy role-playing game on computer? And Julian Galloway of Torgue-based Torgue Games, with his brother Nick, he's helping to change that through their latest project: *Lands Of Chaos*. So why program this fantasy RPG? It's my favourite sort of game and obviously based on Chaos, there aren't many fantasy strategy games around, most of them are pretty bad!

The original *Chaos* was a Spectrum game (also complaining

at the back, that's from Games Workshop, the well-known role-playing-game company. Their short-lived software section produced a few games in 1984/85 and then had to plug pulled something Julian is still upset about.

His last games: *Time Lords*, *Herbula*, and *Rebelstar Position* (another predecessor to a later game) were for Red Shell Software, which no longer exists. After that he went to Games Workshop where he wrote *Chaos* and worked on *Game Con* before starting on the first budget strategy game *Rebelstar Position* (born out of *Rebelstar Position*) for Firebird Silver to be followed a few years later by *Rebelstar II*.

He very nearly stopped programming but came back to the fold to establish Torgue Games with brother Nick and father Peter. Their philosophy being: to produce high-quality strategy games which are designed to go beyond the middle mark.

Their first release: *Loose Squad* did exactly that. A strategy game with solid near-3D characters and a degree of action and charm that just isn't there with most games of the genre. After an obsessive self-publishing attempt, the company signed to Blade who relaunched

Laser Squad and will be publishing the new game too.

Lords of Chaos has a simple concept: There are (up to eight) wizards who have to compete for victory points and, after one, wins, must disappear into a portal to win the game. A player scores points by finding objects, killing the other wizards (magically, of course!) or their creations and casting spells.

Which is where it gets fun. Players create creatures by casting certain spells. The harder the spell, the more it costs to cast and the more incredible a creature is likely to be. It's all dependent on Mana, which is the magical power of the wizard. This goes down when a spell is cast but can be rejuvenated by some of the objects lying around.

Creature spells start with the lovely Giant Bat (worse than porcupine) go through, amongst many others, Devious Bear, hapless Zombies, Vampires all the way up to the most powerful creatures of all: dragons, which come in Green, Red and Gold, the most powerful of all.

There are also a variety of other spells, projectile spells like magic lightning, terrain spells such as the Tangle Vine, Flood, Fire, or Gooey Blob which advance across the landscape like the Red Weed in War of the Worlds, and more intangible spells such as Subversion (of other players' creatures).

The conflict is played out on a wide expanse of terrain (which you can scroll around or see on a top map) which is covered in wizards' strongholds, chests, objects, swamp towers and, by the time the game has got going, loads of pseudo-3D creatures trampling around the map picking things up and hitting each other.

Every game will be different. It's mindboggling, says Julian. Here's right too.

Lords of Chaos will be released by Blade Software at Easter for the Commodore 64.



It's Magic! 





NEON ZONE

then for sure you're going to have a ball on the follow-up.

Talking of driving games, folks: know there's a name you don't hear much use at all has just released its first ever driving game based on the *Road to Dallas* rally called *Big Aun*. Did you know that there are more



Golly by gosh—down it a whole month back by its if in an instant down here in the Neon Zone. It seems like only yesterday when I was dodging up a pretty cool (I thought I was so myself) 14,760,000 on a three ball slot machine. Beat that anyone?

I freely admit to being a pinball fanatic, but I'm not the only one. Down at Virgin Waxman's they staged a 24hr non-stop pinball smash in aid of Children in Need recently—played on one of the two pinballs permanently on freepay there: an old *Daily Space Invaders* machine in fact. Congrats to them for raising well over £500 in the process.

Last month I think I promised news of the follow-up to *Chase HQ* from Teato—called *Special Criminal Investigations*. You wanna know about it?

Well, it takes up exactly where *Chase HQ* left off. I mean, the original was OK, but completely unexciting if you think about it. Like you're supposed to be a cop, right? Straight out of *Miami Vice*, right? And all you do to stop the bad guys is knock their mates around a bit. Detectable? Nope. The real incident missing was... guns!

Special Criminal Investigations remedies this with a vengeance. Like before, you zoom off in your motor giving chase to assumed villainery but this time, when you get near them, do you just give 'em a thump? Nope. It's leaning out of the window with a magnum and BOOOOOOO!

And if you're good—and I mean very good—you get something extra special dropped from a helicopter like a bazooka. And then you start taking the mercenaries out with that Community playing it out but if you did enjoy the original

SPECIAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION





A Black Hole

Special
Control
Investigation

T Midnight Resistance - gun firing action



driven and spectators killed in this rally than any other on the international race calendar? It's quite surprising then that the game doesn't involve trying to run people down; you just have to drive fast.

Controls are simple: accelerator pedal, left and right steering wheel, with you making your way through the various stages of the event, starting in the bright lights of Paris, but soon entering the fogged terrain of the Sahara. Although the implementation is good, the graphics are nice and the scrolling and sprite scaling smooth enough, it has to be said that the game is a little lacking in the originality stakes. Still, if you are into driving yourself, it's worth having a go to see if you agree with me.

If you're not into driving, then maybe it's more action you're looking for. How about *Quad Games*? *Quad Games*? They're these small

reality things that you see quite often in these action events like *Run the Gauntlet*. Take it from me, they are fantastic fun to ride in real life - and now Namco has given you the chance to find out for yourself in a game called *Four Track*.

It comes in a double unit, so you can play head to head against a friend - as you sit down on the bike's saddle and rev the throttle wide open. Spin those wheels, ditch across those corners, feel over those snow banks! Great stuff! Expect to see loads of these about the year.

One you won't see too much of but is worthy of note, is a game from a company called Gamera. Renowned for its pinball machines, the Big G has suddenly released a deeply weird game, *Eliminator*.

Using largely digitized graphics, you control a disembodied hand which has to clear rooms of rather unusual infestations. Like hordes of toy tanks, which have a tendency to fly back, for example.

You have three weapons, your hand can stamp down on the floor directly below you (so crushing anything underneath), grab something out of the air or direct a beam of purple energy across the room, as directed.

While all this is going on you have to watch for flying objects, like the 'Waps' (by grabbing them and your hand will shrivel in agony as it shrugs you).

Deeply surreal, you might not enjoy playing this. It's a little bizarre game, but on the other hand, you might. For something completely different, try it!

What's green, got 4 legs, is 15 years old and would take your Nintendo off as soon as look at you? What else but *A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle*? Yup, the cartoon characters, the *Gems* back into *Puzzles*

is now coming to an arcade near you.

Basically a four player (yes, four player) martial arts bosh, it's quite a bit of fun when Raphael, Leonardo, Donatello and Michelangelo get into action against the bad guys. Lightweight but OK, if there is a crowd of you out for a giggle.

Donatello has come up with some goodies lately. *Nobun* for example and more recently *Secret Agent*. Now comes another that is likely to be very successful for them, *Midnight Resistance*.

Relatively small sprites here, but the control is interesting, using a rotary joystick. It moves right ways in the usual manner, to move your control character, but the knob on top also rotates to direct your line of fire, so you can be running one way and firing in the other. Very sensible.

Extremely playable, even when



A Eliminator



A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



A Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle



the slot machine games that sit on the Italy stand, it's doing really well on test in London. Chances are it'll be a winner.

Finally, take a look at these puzzle games that seem to be taking up half the free-coin in London times. All the manufacturers are trying to create another Tetris of course, which was a huge blockbuster in arcade terms, so not all of them have learned the lesson and learned to be normally upspired. But now at last a decent game has emerged from the mass. Rush runs from London.

It's a racing Space Invader with Tetris. It has a single space ship moving left/right across the bottom of the screen. Incoming blocks upwards. Downwards from the top of the screen come descending shapes when you have to push them back up at them to make complete symmetrical out of them. When that is done that particular shape will disappear. Then to be followed by many other and the shape makes it to the bottom of the screen and you lose a life.

Simple but very addictive. Block Hotel is very addictive. One to look out for in your local arcade which is precisely where I'm going now. I'll not mention Space Fun. But remember Tetris. Don't pass both. Flipped at once, will you?

JOHN COOK

FOURTRAX



Big Box



Big Box



Four Trax - Inboard steering action

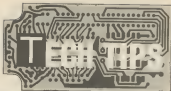


Dear Miles

I have seen several games and demos where the upper and lower areas of the border are removed allowing sprites to be placed where not normally possible. Could you please give me a routine to do the effect? It's explain how to do it.
Kevin Thomas, Herts

Dear Kevin

After reading your letter, I checked some notes I have and I come up with this routine



	SB	Disable interrupts
LP0	LDA 16	Set acc: Val
	LDR 249	Set X-Val (Raster Line)
LP4	CPX 50366	Check raster comp. reg
	BNE LP4	Branch if not the correct raster line back to LP4
	STA 50365	Store acc. at vertical scroll register
	LDA 27	Set acc: Val
	LDR 51	Set X-Val (Raster Line)
LP2	CPX 50366	Check raster comp. reg
	BNE LP2	Branch if not the correct raster line back to LP2
	STA 50365	Store acc. at vertical scroll register
	JMP LP3	Repeat routine

I hope that the above routine is of some use to you and that it helps you with your coding

Dear Miles

I am currently writing myself a simple machine code monitor. I have tried coding a routine that when inputted with a hex number will read off from the memory location inputted and display the content as hex bytes. The problem I am having is converting the contents of the memory location to screen codes. Would you please explain how it should be done?
Jack Jackson Newcastle

Dear Mark

Thanks for writing to me with your question and I am pleased to tell you that I do have the answer and very easy it is too. Quite simply what you have to do is load the accumulator with the hex value AND it with 00001111 leaving it with a value from 0 to 15. Check to see if the value is 10 or greater. If so then subtract 9 (giving you a letter from A-F. If the value is 0-9 then add 48 giving you a number from 0-9). Now store the contents of the accumulator at say 10255 (Dec)

this putting a number of letter on the screen (top left). Now reload the accumulator with the original HEX value. This time store the accumulator four places to the right then AND it with 00001111. Once again check if the value is greater or less than 10. Store the A reg. at say 1034 (Dec). Now you should see the original hex value as two screen codes

Dear Miles

After reading your article on raster inquiries in YC's sister magazine (Commander Dash User) I wanted to find out two points regarding raster bars.

1. Is a so-called 'vertically split raster bar' a genuine raster bar?
 2. If the above question is yes then could you explain how such an effect is done?
- J. Summers, Scotland

Dear Mr Summers

Let me start by answering your first question: a vertically split raster colour bar is a real raster colour bar and isn't done using some form of bitmaps or colour chips. The way that it is done is fairly simple but involves extremely careful and

precise timing. After experimenting, I found that the best method was to blank out the screen by RGWing 50365 to 0. The next procedure is to lock onto the desired raster line where you want the colour bar to start.

Now read off a colour into the accumulator and store at 50360. You should be able to do this about seven times, then these will be one raster line with seven splits of on. Keep doing this for the amount of raster lines you want to cover.

The reason I turned off the screen is because it allows you the same amount of cycles to every raster line (unlike when the screen is on).

I am sorry that I can't give you a listing but it would take up most of the page. I hope that the information is of some help to you.

I hope that answers your question. I checked an old routine I had for doing the above and it worked O.K. so you should have very little trouble doing a similar one yourself.

If you have any programming problems, hints and tips then write to:

**Tech Tips,
YC,
Argus House,
Boundary Way,
Hemel Hempstead
HP2 7ST.**

I will be back next month with more questions and answers on machine code programming.
Miles Doxy

SEX AND SOFTWARE



Girls on film. &

Q: What does The Sun have in common with computer games?

A: Page 3 girls



This couple is censored. &



& Don't be scared, be amazed!



Mac Whitaker, Sam Fox and Corinne Russell have all made their appearance in software adverts in strip poker games, on Intays and games in typically scanty attire. Page 3 publicity sells papers and it sells computer games. But should it? Mr. Stone Short is already heading the battle to ban Page 3 material from our daily papers, and the Organisation Against Sexism in Software (OASIS) has been set up to try to combat similar sales in computer games. So what's all the fuss about? Is there really any harm in showing off a bit of pixelated flesh or are the anti-sexism campaigners just getting their knickers in a twist?

If there's anything designed to get people's blood boiling, it's sex. It gets more people upright and irritated than the National Health Service and water privatisation put together. Everybody's got an opinion about it and given half a chance they'll ram it down your throat. Computers can't like or wear a condom so you might think they haven't got all that much to do with it, but there you're wrong. Sex and gender affect everyone and everything - and games are no exception.

The main points of argument are easy to spot. For something to be sexist it's got to discriminate against women purely on the grounds of their gender. That means that anything which portrays women as less intelligent or capable than men simply because they are women is a definite no-no. The same goes for portraying them as if the only thing that's interesting about them is the way they look. You know the genre: body shame about the brain.

Sex looking and a lot of game packaging and advertising aim to appear decidedly fly. Flick through a few back issues of Your Commodore and you'll find more than a couple of ads sporting a picture of a sexy blonde not overly endowed in the goodies.

department. More often than not there's just a subtle hint of sexuality like the female tennis player undies peeking out from beneath her skirt in the ad for Posing Star but every now and again someone releases an ad which is so overt it causes something of a stir (Remember Psycho Pigeon? On the strength of the gameplay nobody would think the ad which featured an almost topless model stretched out on a billboard was for more memorable. Or how about Corinne Russell posing aggressively in supposedly kinky mask-leopard skin bikini plus leather whip on the cover of *Monkeys Vices*? Dogs refused to sell it with a full-size picture of Corinne on the front, so Monarch had to publish a special head and shoulders version just for them).

Products like Sam Fox Strip Poker or *World's Christmas Box* aren't exactly aimed at furthering the cause of women's liberation. On the other hand they don't even foster the eye-very-much. However interesting you might find Sam Fox in the flesh there has to be a limit to the stimulation afforded by a pair of blacky low-resolution breasts.

Even without bouncing breasts and roughly finished a lot of games hardly go out of their way to show women in a positive light. For example: how many ever thought about the goals of games like *Violence* or *Scavage*? Some freebie info gets totally impossible of looking after herself has got into a pickle (and is just desperate for her macho hard man boyfriend to come and help her out. Doesn't reinforce your confidence in the independence of the fairer sex, does it?

Harmless fun? Well, it's unlikely to harm anyone physically. The argument that page-3-gals are directly linked with the violent sexual abuse of women is pretty tenuous. As long as you're a healthy law-abiding individual in the first place, looking at a pic of Corinne Russell topless or in a bikini isn't going to make you go out and rape someone. Even if you can establish a definite distinction between rape and page-3 in a specific incident that wouldn't be a valid enough reason for banning it. It's like saying that because John Hinckley (the man who tried to shoot Ronald Reagan) was obsessed with Jackie Foster (all her moves should be scrapped



Corinne Russell and her bikini



Corinne Russell is on the ball 'T

That's obvious. But there are more subtle ways in which games can undermine the role of women. Close your eyes for a second (and picture a page-3 gal) then to one the first thing you think about isn't her brainpower. If society placed men and women on a totally equal footing it wouldn't make the blindest bit of difference. For every page-3 gal there'd be a page-1 girl somewhere else. Nobody would think the gal is slag for posing in the nude any more than they'd think badly of the lad.

But right now that's not the way things work. Like it or not society still makes it harder for women to succeed than men. There's still a tendency to assume that women are less capable of rational thought. Girls aren't encouraged to do science at school and employers often discriminate against women when they're handing out jobs. Most of our MPs are men: over 50% of the population they represent is female.

Anything which depicts women in an inferior role reinforces that inequality—whether it's comics, TV, film or computer games. The question is: should we be trying to stop it? On the one hand, taking a few blinks off the front of a plastic box isn't going to change people's attitudes. But then, it just goes to show how little regard one half of the population has for the other.



they only find them interesting when they're wearing a garter. You may think the view that women belong in the kitchen is outdated but every time you buy a product with a sexed ad, you're adding another link to the chain which binds them to the kitchen sink.

Whenever you think of the moral argument, there's another big product to fill this Rudge-nudge-advertising earned ad lads includes most girls from the games scene. At school, computing is considered a boys' subject; at home the brothers get the PCs and the wires get the prams, at work women use word processors, blouses, become the engineers. If a girl ever gets to take a look at a game or a magazine everything about it is designed to put them off.

Personally, I don't think there's any reason why girls shouldn't enjoy anything from shoot 'em ups to adventure games just as much as boys. The only reason they don't is because they're conditioned to think that a computer won't interest them and all the game blats they ever encounter just seems to reinforce that. Maybe if some of the adverts were less one-sided and the game scenarios had a more unbiased approach women's attitudes could change as well. It won't happen overnight and it won't happen without a change in women's education. But if it does happen it might actually bring a breath of fresh air to software.

One of a minority of software houses currently attempting to encourage a non-sexist policy is Audiogenic. The company's boss Peter Colver reckons that getting women interested in software could bring new life into games. If publishers sold more units to all those extra female customers they'd make more money. That way you could plough a lot of your profit back into development and design. And anything that lets you spend more time on game development has to be good for the industry.

There's only one reason some publishers carry on using sexed adverts and producing strip poker games: money. It sells. Whether your product's great or mediocre, it stands to sell a few more units if there's a blonde in a miniskirt on the front. As for the cash, I come from you, the consumer. When you pass your money, you make your choice. Pick a lot of licensed games

and the publishers buy more licences. Ask for more Sam Fox and you'll probably get her. Repeat overly sexual promotion and if enough people do it you'll probably get a response. Whenever you decide about sexism, this is a one issue about which it's easy to make your opinions known. If you've got the cash you've got a vote. And how you vote is up to you.

Karl Pearson



TOO HOT TO HANDLE

What's the biggest risk to your magazine's game play? Sexism. It's only in the mind of those who believe in the equality of the sexes that it isn't a given.

By JEFFREY J. BROWN, publisher of *Playboy* magazine. This is an edited version of an interview with the author.

Q: What's the biggest risk to your magazine's game play? A: Sexism. It's only in the mind of those who believe in the equality of the sexes that it isn't a given.

Q: How do you handle the risk of sexism? A: I handle it by being a man. I handle it by being a man. I handle it by being a man.



EUGENE GOES TO CAMBERLY

Ashley Coner-Colins arrives at Digital Integration in a swathe of set stream and afterburner, and discovers certain manoeuvres before bailing out

Digital Integration is a Camberly-based software house which occupies several offices on a small out of the way industrial wing. It has been in business since 1982 when it produced *Fighter Pilot* on the humble ZX81. Since that inauspicious milestone, DI has built a sound reputation as producer of the best simulations around.

Amongst its past titles are *Tomcat*, *11 Facer* and *Bobaligh* which, along with *Fighter Pilot* and *F 16 Combat Pilot*, were all simulations of their subject. In amongst all of these simulations there lurks a game which is more of an arcade style and format. That game is *Advanced Tactical Fighter (ATF)*. A bit of a digression, for



Digital Integration, who are currently working on a 16-bit sequel, *ATD*.

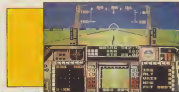
If you ask someone who Digital Integration is, the chances are that they won't know. That is not surprising, as the company tends to keep a low profile. Its strategy tends to be long-term publicity campaign during a game's development. This is usually followed by a sudden outburst of interest as the game nears completion. On launch, the game is widely acclaimed, then D.I. seem to vanish into the background while the sales start picking up.

F-16 Combat Pilot has taken nine-plus man-years to complete. It was developed over eighteen months by a team of programmers and designers, whose emphasis was always on speeding up the program. Dave Marshall, head of Digital and project designer and manager, "We constantly tried to shave milliseconds off of the reaction and movement time to create as realistic a simulation as possible. The Commodore 64 version of F-16 was worked on by Dave, with Chris Medley programming and graphics by Les Daugherty.

The team has worked long and hard to cram as much detail into the 64 as possible. As a result, the 64 and Amiga versions are technically almost identical. Of course, the 64 cannot match the Amiga's graphics capability at speed, and the objects are wire frame instead of solid 3D. However most of the features of the 16-bit version are still represented.

The 16-bit version was acclaimed as the best simulator available this side of a 32-bit machine, generally used by the Ministry of Defence for training real combat pilots. The 64 version manages to capture the same feel as its 16-bit counterpart and uses the maximum amount of available memory space. Despite this, the graphics have not suffered and the game still looks polished. However, the future for D.I. in the 8-bit market looks to be fairly limited.

The 8-bit market is still being explored. However it's definitely the future of D.I. you can do so much more within a more powerful machine. It's not that we want to leave the 8-bit market but more that the slot of the machine just won't take the complexity of the projects any more. There's only so much that 8-bit machines can do. As it is, it was a struggle to cram F-16 Combat



Pilot into the 64."

The initial sales have hit around 17,000 units or so across the 16-bit market. It's always hard to assess the exact level of sales for a simulation because its shelf-life is so long. But the total sales overall are expected to top 100,000. Such a Digital Integration success after launching a new product that they can survive through eighteen months of development without worrying financially. Now that F-16 Combat Pilot has been released, the sales will continue throughout development of their next projects. And so its success continues.

So much has changed during the age of computer home entertainment, it's very short while and yet Digital Integration is still going strong into the 1990s. Many

F-16 Fighter Pilot. A

companies have tried to cope with the recession in sales by changing its image, its product or long-term strategy. But Digital has stuck to its guns, obviously having found the correct formula for time around in the marketplace. Many of the smaller companies have gone by the roadside, but D.I. are now expanding.

With the backing of Electronic Arts, it is marketing F-16 Combat Pilot in America. This is a huge market area into which many British software houses fail to break. Digital Integration's name into that lucrative yet little market is yet another testament to its achievements as a software house.

—Jed Paul, *Amiga*.



Start line landing. A

At last the real McCoy

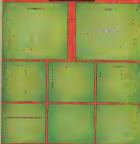
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BEWARE



THE HOUND OF SHADOW

The Hound of Shadow is a
horror game for the Spectrum
and Amstrad computers. It is
a single player game. You
play as a detective who is
hunted by a mysterious
force. The game is set in a
dark, atmospheric world.
You must solve a series of
puzzles and escape from
the clutches of the Hound of
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the clutches of the Hound of
Shadow.

ELECTRONIC ARTS

STICK UP!

Competition PRO

5000

COBRA

MICROSWITCH JOYSTICK

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £11.95

The Cobra looks more than a little like the old Guidetrol II. It is microswitched (it therefore makes very loud clicks) and it's strong and fairly well designed. I found that the trigger was quite hard to use but performed well on most games except The Champ, the accuracy was not possible to achieve.
ACC

75%



92%

Supplier: DYNAMICS
Price: £14.95

The Competition Pro is widely acclaimed as the best joystick ever. It certainly has aged well as it has been around for some years now. It still looks distinctive with quiet microswitches and good fire buttons. It's precise and easy to use. One of my favourites.
ACC

Racemaker

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £26.95

The Racemaker is an adventurous joystick. It looks like a plane's control stick although it doesn't feel as strong as some of the others reviewed. Control was difficult to achieve on everything but Chase H.Q. which the stick is literally built for. It works well on racing games but one for fans of the type only.
ACC

65%



ULTIMATE SUPERSTICK

87%

Supplier: EUROMAX
Price: £32.95

The Superstick is one impressive joystick. It has left or right handed fire buttons, a nice microswitched shaft (kicker!) and is into real. You plug in the receiver to the joystick ports and the joystick itself sends out signals. My only criticism is that the fire buttons are 'squishy'. Pretty good.
ACC



KONIX SPEEDKING

Supplier: KONIX

Price: £10.99

This is my favourite joystick of the lot. A fantastic quality option, great microswitches and a good hand grip make this one of the most user friendly ever. In my view

to find directions with the stick for games like The Champ while still good for games like Chase H.Q. I would definitely recommend this one for the serious gamer/player. A must ACC



98%

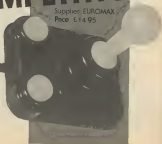
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Supplier: EUROMAX

Price: £14.95

84%

It has a direct take-off of the Competition Pro, although it looks like a cheaper version of the same joystick. The shell is smooth instead of grippy and the fire buttons are small and squishy to touch, making it harder to use than the Pro. Otherwise it's virtually identical. Because it's light and it's easy to use ACC





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PURPLE FISH THANG

It's purple time again!!

Bloop. Oh dear fish friends through your swimming event of over indulgence, namely Christmas, has come and gone here on the aquatic wonderworld of Ace, the time difference means that our annual celebrations of all things fishy have yet to take place. And somehow thanks to communicating with the wireless YC boy Henderson by ITL mail, mind links the foot has transmitted what you earthlings call a 'hangover' to our entire population. This outrage shall not go unpunished dear grubbers, even now the great war engines of Ace are being prepared. But first here is the latest gossip brought to me by my spies.

ACTIVISION

Amanda Barry, Activision's PR supremo, is leaving the exciting metropolis of Reading for dull old London and a job at Lynne Frank's PR, infamous for its Zeni Buckle temple in the centre of the office and its terrible coffee.

MIRRORSOFT

Following on from the Bloodwych disaster, more bad news from Microsoft concerns Dynamic Debugger. Apparently the programmer was supposed to have finished the game by the beginning of November, but has since awkwardly refused to contact the company. Our fish on the spot (in his bowl of course) also reports increasing levels of strife at the company. While punter's coin about games not washing, echo around the product department all day and personal colliers are rolled up behind stacks of returned discs, the two main grills, Cathy in PR and Charlie in Product are driving for the rise of Microsoft's Symbol. The office is apparently awash with blubber and eye shadow.

FOCUS

Well known publishing house Focus well known because of the decares people have left in thanks to the jobs for the boys, management has inflicted its defeat on boy Henderson and his plucky troops. Using self-referential tactics of passing the ball, and a heady mixture of Kluge's bums and low pitched sages at half time the footballers of Argus were unlucky losers in a tight game decided only when the referee blew his whistle at the end. Commented our PR, after the game: they caught us by surprise they scored the game ten minutes before we arrived. It was the secret tactic that finished us off though. Who would have believed that they could 'pass' the ball.

The final score in this not-fishing game was Focus 10, Argus 1. Oh thought I told you to forget about that. (ed)

buyers to ACE, has been finished recently. First the Deputy Editor of ACE, Richard Haynes, or Dick as most people fondly call him, humiliated himself and provided a good watering spot for infirm dogs by falling over dead drunk at a press bath. It was tough and go for Dick but the soothing ministrations of HH's nurses brought him back from the brink and he was discharged the next day.

Then there was a great furor over a review of Ghostbusters II in ACE, when it was given the equivalent of 23%. A cowardly journalism was used on the review, which has all the hallmarks of a water waking near a thousand miles from Paddy Court. Activision were so incensed by the review which rumour has it was so damning, because the writer didn't get their review copy before anyone else, that the US parent firm has ceased and buyers informed. It also resulted in Larry Spinks having a clenched teeth meeting with Dick Haynes of ACE and Terry Roor the publisher.

That's all from I, the Purple Fish Lord for this Earth month. Until next time may your bowl be forever clean.

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